

Wisconsin Forestry Notes

May 2005

Wisconsin DNR - Division of Forestry

Arbor Day Highlights Two Important Wisconsin Resources: Children and Trees!

Arbor Day - a day set aside to promote tree planting and to recognize the importance of trees - is celebrated in Wisconsin on the last Friday of April every year.

Visit this page to read an address by Arbor Day Founder J. Sterling Morton:

<http://www.arborday.org/arborday/morton1887.cfm>

April 29th marked the 133rd celebration of Arbor Day in Wisconsin, a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Annual Arbor Day contests in Wisconsin – a writing contest for 4th-grade students and a poster contest for 5th-grade students – help share the message that people benefit wherever trees and forests are growing. This year over 2,200 fourth and fifth grade students from 138 schools participated.

Winners of the 2005 writing contest are:

- Megan Binkley, Van Hise Elementary, Madison
- Gretchen Klefstad, Prairie Farm Elementary, Prairie Farm
- Samantha Olson, Miller Elementary, Tomah

Winners of the 2005 poster contest are:

- Leah Vosters, St. Florian School, Hatley
- Jordin Miller, Wheatland Center Elementary School, Burlington
- Ashley Sigetich, Kosciuszko Elementary School, Cudahy

First Lady Jessica Doyle joined other dignitaries and family members to honor these students and their teachers. The contests are co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, the Wisconsin Arborist Association, and the Wisconsin Nursery Association along with the DNR-Division of Forestry. View the winning entries at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/cool/index.htm>

Wisconsin: A National Leader in Urban Forestry

Wisconsin recently welcomed 8 new communities to the honored rank of Tree City USA. Another 24 Wisconsin communities received Growth Awards recognizing their outstanding work in 2004.

Wisconsin ranks third in the nation in the number of Tree Cities USA, a program created by the National Arbor Day Foundation to help communities enhance and promote their urban forests. Wisconsin's share of Tree Cities USA has grown to 158 from just five when the program began in 1976. Nationwide there are more than 3,000 Tree City USA communities. To be recognized as a Tree City USA, a community must have: 1) a designated tree board or forestry department; 2) an annual forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita; 3) a tree care ordinance; and 4) an Arbor Day Celebration and Proclamation. Cities that exceed these requirements may receive a Tree City "Growth Award," which not only recognizes achievement, but also helps to export novel ideas to other communities. In 2004, 24 Wisconsin cities, villages and towns received Growth Awards. To see if your community is a Tree City, visit: http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/UF/awareness/tc_usa_Current.html

For more information about the national program, visit:

<http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa.cfm>

Training Offered to Help Keep Industry Competitive

The Division of Forestry promotes all three legs of sustainable forestry - social, ecological and economic - and partners with others to provide a variety of training courses to help Wisconsin's forest products industry stay competitive in the global marketplace.

Part of the DNR-Division of Forestry's sustainable forestry mission is to help Wisconsin's forest industry stay competitive in the global marketplace. To that end, the Division's Forest Products Utilization and Marketing Specialists partner with other groups to present a variety of educational workshops. One example – announced recently by Terry Mace of the Division of Forestry and Tim Kassis, President of Lake States Lumber Association Education, Inc. – is the Lean Manufacturing Seminar scheduled for June 28th at UW-Stevens Point. Lean manufacturing is a method of doing more with less and encompasses a systematic approach to identifying and eliminating production steps that don't add value to the final customer. This workshop will help Wisconsin wood products businesses identify opportunities in their company for lean manufacturing and direct them towards a philosophy of continuous improvement needed for today's increasing business competition. For details about this and other upcoming educational offerings, visit this Webpage:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Usesof/fproducts.htm>

Division Offers Wildland Firefighting Training

Local fire departments respond to an average of 3,340 wildland fires every year in areas of Wisconsin not serviced by DNR ranger stations (known as "cooperative areas"). A new 8-hour course offered free of charge by DNR will help them prepare for wildland fires.

Local fire departments are important partners in the Wisconsin DNR – Division of Forestry's forest fire program. The Division has long offered Wisconsin fire departments the ability to buy equipment such as protective clothing through our stockroom, federal and state grant funds to support wildland fire suppression capabilities, and the possibility of getting equipment through the Federal Excess Property Program. Now the Division is also offering an 8-hour training course to fire departments located in the "cooperative areas" of Wisconsin (this is the term for areas of the state where town chairpersons have the responsibility for suppressing forest fires as DNR ranger stations and suppression resources are not located there). Fire departments in cooperative areas of the state respond to an average of 3,430 wildland fires burning 24,550 acres every year in Wisconsin. This new training effort is focused on assisting fire departments to safely and efficiently suppress those wildland fires. Visit this page for details about the training class and a map to see if your local fire department is located in a cooperative area of the state:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/Fire/firedepttrain.htm>

Open House for State Forest Master Plan

The public review and comment deadline for the draft Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan is June 1.

Don't forget the open houses / public hearings scheduled for the Northern Highland - American Legion State Forest draft master plan on May 3 in Neenah, May 4 in Fitchburg, May 5 in Boulder Junction and May 9 in Wausau. For location details, visit http://dnr.wi.gov/master_planning/nhal/PublicMeetings.htm

If you're unable to attend one of these meetings, please submit comments by June 1 to: Dennis Leith, State Forest Superintendent, DNR Service Center, 8770 HWY J, Woodruff, WI 54568 or via e-mail to: Dennis.Leith@dnr.state.wi.us

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